

Message Text

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12

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 DODE-00

DOT-00 DLOS-03 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01

COME-00 EPA-01 INR-07 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03

RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02 FMC-01 CG-00 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /097 W

----- 066357

P 170918Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1857

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, IMCO, SN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GROUNDING OF JAPANESE TANKER

REF: (A) STATE 011235; (B) SINGAPORE 180

1. FROM ALL AVAILABLE INFO, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOS WOULD RESIST ANY EFFORT BY INDONESIA OR MALAYSIA TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION TO REGULATE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THIS WAS GIST OF FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM REMARKS REPORTED REF B AND THE SAME VIEW WAS EXPRESSED IN PRIME MINISTER LEE'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR ON JANUARY 16 FOLLOWING

HIS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER RAZAK. SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES OF JANUARY 17 REPORTED LEE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS AT THIS PRESS CONFERENCE:

(1) SINGAPORE HAS AGREED TO MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE IMS

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GOVERNMENTS TO DISCUSS NAVIGATION, SAFETY AND POLLUTION PROBLEMS

IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA -- DATE AND VENUE TO BE DECIDED AT NEXT ASEAN OFFICIALS MEETING. THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD DISCUSS: (A) HOW TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM SAFETY OF NAVIGATION IN STRAITS; (B) THE PROBLEM OF ASSURED GUARANTEE OF COMPENSATION OF LOSS AND INJURY IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS CAUSING POLLUTION AND OTHER DAMAGE.

(2) PRIME MINISTER RAZAK AND LEE AGREED THAT ONE OF THE IMPORTANT FACTORS AFFECTING SAFETY IS THE DRAFT OF THE SHIPS WHICH TRAVERSE THE STRAITS.

(3) QUOTE ONCE THE THREE STATES HAVE DEFINED THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE WILL TRY TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND AN ASSURED GUARANTEE OF COMPENSATION, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO MEET NOT ONLY JAPAN BUT ALSO OTHER USERS...THIS JUST CANNOT BE SETTLED AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE.

2. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF A, CHAO HICK TIN, DEPUTY SENIOR STATE COUNSEL, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, AND ONE OF SINGAPORE'S FOREMOST LAW OF THE SEA EXPERTS, TOLD DCM JANUARY 16 THAT SHOWA MARU INCIDENT WOULD CAUSE GOS TO RETHINK ITS POSITION VERY CAREFULLY ON THE QUESTION

OF REGULATING THE STRAITS OF MALACCA, BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE GOS WOULD RESIST ANY EFFORT BY GOI AND GOM TO IMPOSE ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY A SET OF REGULATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. HE THOUGHT GOI AND GOM MIGHT AGREE QUOTE TO CONSULT UNQUOTE WITH IMCO WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED REGULATION

OF THE STRAITS, BUT THAT INDONESIA ESPECIALLY WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO QUOTE SEEK THE APPROVAL UNQUOTE OF IMCO.

3. SINCE THE THREE IMS GOVERNMENTS HAVE APPARENTLY ALREADY AGREED TO HOLD A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON SUBJECT, WE THINK IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE THREE GOVERNMENTS COLLECTIVELY OR ANY ONE OF THEM WOULD BE LIKELY TO TAKE PRECIPITATE ACTION TO ISSUE REGULATIONS BEFORE THAT MEETING IS HELD. EMBASSY CONCURS IN GENERAL APPROACH SET FORTH REF A, BUT BELIEVES BEST TACTIC WOULD BE FOR U.S. TO CONSULT WITH THREE IMS GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WITH VIEW TO PROMOTING GENERAL APPROACH OUTLINED REF A AND TO URGE THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATIONS BE CAST IN FORM OF PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH IMCO. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS APPROACH PREFERABLE TO PROMOTING AT THIS TIME ANY SPECIFIC DRAFT
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STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS EXCESSIVE PRESSURING BY U.S. TO INFLUENCE TRIPARTITE DELIBERATIONS. CRONK

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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